



OLENTANGY SCHOOLSSM

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OLENTANGY SCHOOLS RECEIVES A+ FOR VAPING EFFORTS

Olentangy Schools has made great strides over the past year in our anti-tobacco efforts and policies, receiving an A+ score from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Vaping is an epidemic among youth across the country, and we felt effects in our district. To address this growing problem, the district has taken significant steps over the past year toward prevention.

Olentangy enhanced disciplinary policies, requiring students caught in possession of e-cigarettes, tobacco or vaping devices to receive a three-day out-of-school suspension.

Olentangy Schools increased student prevention education in high school health classes, and introduced parent education beginning at the elementary level. Students that receive tobacco-related suspensions can choose to enroll in the American Lung Association's INDEPTH program to reduce time out of school.

Olentangy's Board of Education approved the purchase and installation of vape detectors in all high school bathrooms. These devices have proven effective in detecting vape fumes and sending immediate alerts to administrators, ensuring swift action.

The Board of Education also passed specific anti-tobacco and vaping policy for all staff, students and visitors that counteract any ambiguities in the district's stance against tobacco.

"This time last year, the Board of Education approved funds to become one of the first school districts in the state to install vape detectors in the bathrooms of our high schools," says Board of Education President Mindy Patrick. "I am proud of the work that has been done in this area, and the recognition of our efforts and investment by the Ohio Department of Health."

An A+ score from the ODH means the district's anti-tobacco policy is comprehensive within their standards, which has permeating effects that improves grades, increases attendance, reduces tobacco use and creates a safe and healthy learning environment. The ODH recognizes Olentangy's work in promoting and implementing a 100% tobacco-free policy that prioritizes the health and wellness of our students.

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